Yukon Heritage Resources Board

Annual Report April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

Vision

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board is a visible, active advisor to federal, territorial and First Nation governments on heritage. We protect and promote heritage by operating with integrity, committing to representativeness and sharing knowledge and skills. The Board are leaders and innovators in sustaining and nurturing all facets of Yukon heritage.

Mission

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board is a board created under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) to represent all people of the Yukon and to advise the federal, territorial and First Nation governments on heritage matters. As stewards of our rich and diverse cultural heritage, we agree to:

- Provide conscientious, fair and respectful advice to ensure governments meet their obligations and responsibilities;
- Advance opportunities associated with the development and interpretation of heritage resources;
- Protect the value of heritage; and
- Foster relationships based on fairness, equity and representativeness.

These Vision and Mission statements were adopted by the Board in 2004.

Message from the Chair

Heritage issues matter to Yukoners. Whether it's the recovery of a World War II airplane from Watson Lake, the discovery of dinosaur fossils on the Peel River, or the longstanding discussions between First Nations and Yukon governments on the definition of a found object as ethnographic versus archaeological, heritage issues are relevant not only to our past but to how we develop our future.

YHRB chair Claire Festel. Claire Festel photo

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board members understand the importance of these issues and are committed to working closely with other heritage organizations and advising all levels of governments to create effective, fair and reasonable heritage-related systems.

To this end, in the second year of its term, board members undertook further training in the field; presented draft rules of procedure for determining ownership of contested heritage resources in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Old Crow; participated in many heritage community activities; recommended revisions to the Yukon Historic Resources Fund application process and co-hosted the Carcross Hotel designation ceremony. As they do every year, the board members held one of their meetings in a Yukon community, this time in Old Crow.

In September of 2008, we welcomed Nancy Huston to the board. In October of 2008 we wished Loree Stewart well in her new ventures and in January of 2009, we welcomed Morgen Smith to the Executive Director position. Morgen has taken on her responsibilities with vigour.

As heritage issues become front and centre for more and more Yukoners, the Yukon Heritage Resources Board will be there to advise governments and to participate fully in a Yukon where we build on our traditions.

Who We Are

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board (YHRB) was established in 1995 in accordance with Chapter 13 of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. The YHRB's duties and responsibilities are outlined primarily in Chapter 13 of the First Nation Final Agreements and the Yukon's *Historic Resources Act* (Part 1, Section 4). Under the Final Agreements, the board may make recommendations to the Minister and to Yukon First Nations regarding the management of Moveable Heritage Resources and Heritage Sites. The YHRB may also be asked to make determinations pursuant to Chapter 13 section 13.3.2.1 (ownership of contested heritage resources) and 13.3.6 (management of ethnographic objects and palaeontological or archaeological objects).

(l–r): William Asp, Claire Festel, Missy Follwell, VGFN Heritage Manager Megan Williams, Sharon Peter, Loree Stewart, Bill Pringle, Anne Leckie, and Testloa Smith in Old Crow.
Photo: Anne Leckie

Under the *Historic Resources Act*, the board is to advise the Minister on appropriate policies and guidelines for the designation of historic sites and appropriate policies; guidelines and standards for the care and custody of historic objects; making regulations under the Act; and the use of the Yukon Historic Resources Fund.

The board comprises ten members from throughout the Yukon who operate in the public interest. The Council of Yukon First Nations nominates five appointees and the Yukon government nominates five, with the concurrence of the government of Canada for one of the selections. All appointments are made by the Yukon Minister of Tourism and Culture for three-year terms.

Effective May 10, 2007, Claire Festel (Chair), William Asp, Missy Follwell, Anne Leckie, Alexia McKinnon, Bill Pringle and Testloa Smith were appointed and Sharon A. Peter (Vice-Chair) and Ron Chambers were reappointed for three-year terms. Nancy Huston was appointed to the board in September of 2008.

Rick Lemaire, Director of Cultural Services with Government of Yukon's Department of Tourism and Culture, assists the board in his role as the Yukon Government liaison. Ian Burnett, who was Acting Director of the Cultural Services Branch from October of 2007 through October of 2008, assisted the board during this period. Loree Stewart was the board's Executive Director through September; Morgen Smith joined the board as Executive Director in January.

Board activities

The YHRB's mandate is to provide advice to governments on issues that affect the territory's heritage resources. Board members work with a variety of groups and individuals across the territory and nationally to fulfil this mandate. In this second year of their term, board members pursued additional training to further their understanding of the board's mandate; presented to and discussed with the Parties the draft rules of procedure for determining ownership of contested heritage resources; increased the visibility of the YHRB through extensive participation in heritage community activities; and helped revise the Yukon Historic Resources Fund application process and made recommendations on the fund's use.

Draft rules to adjudicate disputed ownership of heritage resources

In May of 2008, the *Draft Rules of Procedure for Determining Ownership of Heritage Resources under Chapter 13 of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements* were distributed for comment to the Parties. Parties were encouraged to arrange presentations and feedback sessions with the board. The board met with the Government of Yukon to discuss the development of the draft rules and the board's role in determining ownership of Yukon heritage resources. In August, board members met with heritage staff from Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to discuss the draft rules. While in Old Crow, board members received feedback from the VGFN Heritage Committee on the rules. Board members gave presentations on the draft rules at the November meetings of the Yukon First Nations Heritage Group and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief and Board of Directors.

Board meetings

May 23, 2008 (Whitehorse)
August 8–9, 2008 (Old Crow)
November 14–15, 2008 (Whitehorse)
February 6, 2009 (Whitehorse)

Ongoing discussions on the draft rules facilitated board members' understanding of the objectives of Chapter 13 and the role of the YHRB. The board provides the Parties with regular updates on the rules development process and continues to encourage input and comments.

Relationships with Parties to the UFA

YHRB and Yukon Water Board (YWB) co-hosted a joint training session on recognizing, understanding, and incorporating traditional knowledge in board decision making. There was also a presentation on the incorporation of traditional knowledge in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment process. YHRB also participated in the five-year review of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.

Community visit

The board held its annual community meeting in Old Crow in August of 2008. Board members met with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation members, staff and Heritage Committee; visited local heritage sites; attended church services; and contributed to and attended the Vuntut Gwitchin General Assembly dinner at Tlo Kut, located on the Porcupine River upstream from Old Crow.

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Rampart House. Yukon government photo

Providing informed advice to governments

The board sent a letter to the federal and territorial governments to support continued funding for the Historic Places Initiative, reconfirming its support for an aboriginal component. The board's Special Projects Committee worked with Government of Yukon's Historic Sites Unit to revise and streamline the application process for the Yukon Historic Resources Fund.

The board received initial information related to the development of a National Trust program. The board follows national heritage news through its membership with the Heritage Canada Foundation and the Canadian Museums Association. The board follows regional and national heritage issues through its membership in the Yukon Historical and Museums Association (YHMA).

The board's Executive Director participated as a member of YHMA's conference planning and Heritage Training Fund committees. The board chair continued to participate as an ex-officio member of the Yukon Museums Advisory Committee. The board's outgoing Executive Director attended her first Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) committee meetings as the newly appointed Yukon representative to HSMBC.

Board member training

Board members attended a variety of training opportunities, and continued to focus on the four high-priority areas identified in the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) Implementation Plan: board procedures and functions, board mandate, provisions of the UFA, and cross-cultural orientation and education.

Board members attended the Public Service Commission's "Yukon First Nations History, Culture, Agreements and Self-Governance" course. In April, one board member and the Executive Director attended a

Parks Canada workshop in Dawson City on the application of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and provided a report on the workshop to the full board. The board received training on the designation process for territorial historic sites. Board members and the Acting Executive Director attended the Alaska-Yukon Land Claims Symposium at Yukon College. Three board members attended Administrative Justice courses offered through Yukon College.

Board member participation in the heritage community

On June 6, 2008, board members attended the designation ceremony for the Caribou Hotel in Carcross. YHRB also assisted with organizing the day's events and co-hosted the reception.

YHRB worked with Yukon heritage organizations and the Historica Foundation of Canada as one of the major sponsors of the Yukon Regional Fête Historica Fair. Board members and staff assisted in planning and as judges, YHRB provided gifts and draw prizes, and the board chair spoke at the closing ceremony.

Board members and the Executive Director met with B.C. and Alberta heritage colleagues at a May reception hosted by Canadian Heritage in Whitehorse. They attended the Kwädäy Dän Ts'ìnchì Winter Event in Haies Junction hosted by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. They also attended the Yukon First Nations Language Revitalization and Promotion Conference hosted by the Council of Yukon First Nations.

Board members Missy Follwell and Bill Pringle chat with a participant at the Fête Historica Fair.
Yukon government photo

Three board members participated in workshops for the New Sites Initiative, part of a Parks Canada effort to identify potential candidates for national heritage designation of events, individuals and sites of significance to women, First Nations and ethno-cultural communities in the Yukon.

Strategic plan

Throughout the year, YHRB updated its strategic action plan to reflect the board's activities and goals.

Public awareness activities

The board provided displays, brochures and annual reports to the Alaska-Yukon Land Claims Symposium held at Yukon College in November of 2008. Vests with the YHRB logo were made for board members and

staff to wear at public events. YHRB developed display panels and a new brochure to be used at local and regional heritage events. The board distributed annual reports to interested parties and displayed them at heritage community events. The board submits regular activity updates to the YHMA newsletter.

In November of 2008, YHRB hosted a dinner to honour outgoing Executive Director Loree Stewart for her long tenure as Executive Director and her exceptional work on behalf of the board.

Guests and presentations

The board was pleased to host a number of guests throughout the year. At the May board meeting, Department of Tourism and Culture's Carcross Coordinator Ed Krahn gave an update on economic, tourism, and heritage promotion activities in Carcross. While in Old Crow, the board received a tour of the new John Tizya Centre from VGFN Heritage Manager Megan Williams. The board was joined at its November meeting by the Honourable Elaine Taylor, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Executive Assistant Dan MacDonald, and the board's Government of Yukon liaison Rick Lemaire. Barbara Hogan, Yukon's Historic Sites Registrar, provided training on the historic designation process in the Yukon.

During the board's February meeting, Yukon Territorial Archivist Ian Burnett provided a tour of the Yukon Archives facility and an introduction to Archives projects. Tip Evans and Claudia Bob updated the board on the progress of the joint Yukon Archives/Teslin Tlingit Council project.

Recommendations of the Yukon Heritage Resources Board 2008–09

The Yukon Heritage Resources board, in cooperation with the Government of Yukon, reviews and determines the eligibility of applications to the Yukon Historic Resources Fund on an annual basis, and decides whether to recommend them for funding. This year, a total of $30,362 in interest generated by the fund was available for these projects. The board recommended to the Yukon Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor that eight applications be funded: a biography project, *The Unsinkable Babe Richards: An Extraordinary Life*; Caribou Hotel Rehabilitation Project; Dawson Firefighter Shelter planning and design; *A.J. Goddard* Site Evaluation (Yukon River Survey); *Hets'edan Ku* Traditional Sewing Project; exterior maintenance and upgrade of the Odd Fellows Hall; Vuntut Gwitchin Government: Gwich'in Language and Graphics Enhancement Project; and the Yukon Historical and Museums Association conference.

Result: Accepted

Yukon Historic Sites

The recognition and protection of Yukon's historic sites is provided for under the *Historic Resources Act* and Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. The Act defines a historic site as "a location at which is found a work or assembly of works of human endeavour or of nature that is of value for its archaeological, palaeontological, prehistoric, historic, scientific or aesthetic features." Anyone in Yukon can nominate a site for designation under the Act.

Nominations are received by the Minister of Tourism and Culture's office, referred to the Historic Sites Unit for review and then to YHRB for evaluation and recommendation to the Minister. The board evaluates a site using criteria specific to the category of the nominated site. When recommending a site for designation, the board also makes recommendations on the management of the site. No nominations for Yukon Historic Site designation were received by the board during the reporting period.

Designation ceremony, Caribou Hotel. Yukon government photo

Directions for the future

YHRB will continue to make recommendations on the designation of Yukon Historic Sites and applications to the Yukon Historic Resources Fund, sit on the Museums Advisory Committee in an ex-officio capacity, and review the objectives, policies and programs of the Cultural Services Branch. As specified in Yukon First Nation Final Agreements, YHRB will review and make recommendations on management plans for historic sites, special management areas and Yukon parks.

YHRB will continue to provide presentations and opportunities for comment on the *Draft Rules of Procedure for Determining Ownership of Heritage Resources*, and will update the Parties on the rules development process. The board will continue to encourage the Governments to develop a definitions manual to facilitate the management and interpretation of heritage resources.

The board will continue to review and update its strategic action plan and keep government apprised of its activities. YHRB will continue to participate in the Historica Fair and will continue to raise its profile by partnering with governments, heritage organizations and the public on heritage issues. Board members will attend heritage events and functions and hold a meeting in a Yukon community each year.

Auditor's report

To the Members of Yukon Heritage Resource Board

I have audited the statement of financial position of Yukon Heritage Resource Board as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the The Board management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operation and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

M. McKay and Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountant
Whitehorse, Yukon
July 28, 2009

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2009

Assets

	2009	2008
Current		
Cash	$ 33,237	$ 39,638
Accounts receivable	1,703	4,195
Prepaid expenses	3,398	2,209
	38,338	46,042
Capital assets (Note 4)	24,735	22,853
	$ 63,073	$ 68,895
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 12,453	$ 13,684
Payroll liabilities	2,047	2,736
Contingent liability (Note 5)	—	—
	14,500	16,420
Net assets		
Net assets invested in capital assets	24,735	22,853
Unrestricted net assets	23,838	29,622
	48,573	52,475
	$ 63,073	$ 68,895

Approved by the Board Members:

Member

Member

Statement of operations

For the year ended March 31, 2009

	2009	2008
Revenue		
Government of Yukon	**$ 190,044**	**$ 186,214**
Investment income	**1,759**	5,871
	191,803	192,085
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	**2,192**	**4,735**
Accommodation	**5,069**	3,142
Honoraria	**27,525**	33,450
Insurance	**3,211**	3,245
Janitorial	**1,691**	1,852
Miscellaneous	**604**	1,065
Memberships	**163**	103
Office supplies	**2,225**	2,752
Office equipment	**1,882**	1,592
Meeting room	**—**	190
Meals and incidentals	**6,713**	7,572
Photocopying and postage	**965**	1,411
Repairs and maintenance	**2,725**	2,234
Support services	**22,287**	46,404
Telephone	**3,248**	3,040
Training	**12,658**	12,012
Travel	**14,916**	10,531
Utilities	**7,207**	6,754
Wages and benefits	**82,306**	80,238
	197,587	222,322
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	**$ (5,784)**	$ (30,237)

Statement of changes in net assets

For the year ended March 31, 2009

	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	Total 2009	Total 2008
Balance, beginning of year	$22,853	$29,622	$52,475	$85,401
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	—	(5,784)	(5,784)	(30,237)
Investment in capital assets	1,882	—	1,882	(2,689)
	24,735	23,838	48,573	52,475
Balance, end of year	**$24,735**	**$23,838**	**$48,573**	**$52,475**

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended March 31, 2009

	2009	2008
Operating activities		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	**$ (5,784)**	$ (30,237)
Add (deduct): Charges to income not involving cash		
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations	**(617)**	(9,271)
Cash flow from operating activities	**(6,401)**	(39,508)
Financing activities		
	1,882	1,593
Cash flow from financing activities	**1,882**	1,593
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment:		
Furniture and equipment	**(1,882)**	(1,593)
Cash flow from investing activities	**(1,882)**	(1,593)
Decrease in cash	**(6,401)**	(39,508)
Cash, beginning of year	**39,638**	79,146
Cash, end of year	**$ 33,237**	$ 39,638

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

1. Purpose of the organization

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board was established in March 1995 as one of the bodies required under the terms of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) and the enabling settlement legislation, to make recommendation the the federal and territorial Ministers responsible for Heritage and to each Yukon First Nation regarding the management of Yukon Heritage Resources and First Nation Heritage Resources.

Since its inception, the Board has assisted First Nations, territorial, federal and municipal governments in developing heritage resource policies to reflect the wishes of all Yukoners.

2. Significant accounting policies

a. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting practices generally accepted in Canada. In preparing these financial statements management has made estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

b. Revenue recognition
The Board follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

c. Capital assets
The full cost of capital assets is capitalized on the balance sheet in the year of purchase. Payments toward those costs are expensed in the year they are made. The Investment in Capital Assets represents the historical cost of all assets owned by the Society less loans providing funds to acquire equity in the assets. The Board does not amortize its capital assets.

3. Financial instruments

The Board's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that there are no significant currency, credit or interest risks arising from these financial instruments.

4. Capital assets

	2009		2008	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Cost	Accumulated amortization
Furniture and equipment	$ 24,735	$ —	$ 22,853	$ —
	$ 24,735	$ —	$ 22,853	$ —
Net Book Value		$ 24,735		$ 22,853

5. Contingent liability

The amount shown as unrestricted net assets represents surplus funds received from the Yukon Government. The Yukon Government may, at its discretion, demand a repayment of the surplus.

6. Economic dependence

The Board is dependent upon the Government of Yukon for continued financial support.

Header photos (except where noted, Yukon government photo):

Page 1. Trapper's cabin near Whitehorse (YHRB photo)

Page 2. Pauline Cove, Herschel Island

Page 3. Dredge on Sulphur Creek

Page 4. Tombstone area, northern Yukon

Page 5. Anglican Rectory, Fort Selkirk

Page 6. Bluefish Caves

Page 7. Forty Mile

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Front: View of Old Crow, 1946 (Yukon Archives, Claude and Mary Tidd fonds, #7645); Back: View of Old Crow, 2009 (Parks Canada/Jeffrey Peter)